Effect of delay in VISA on tourists

3457. DR. E. M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN :
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA :
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that due to delay in issue of visa by different Indian High Commissions, the tourists to our country are badly affected; and

(b) the time which is taken by Indian High Commission and Embassies in different countries to issue tourists visas and other visas to visit India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR) : (a) No. There has been no delay in issue of tourist viasa.

(b) Tourist and other visas are issued within one to three days, if the applicant applies for the same within the country of his residence or domicile. If the visa is applied for in a country other than the applicant's own country, visa is issued after three working days from the date of application. In cases falling under 'Prior Reference Category', visas are issued only after getting the clearance from the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Discussions during the visit of US Secretary of State

3548. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether US Secretary of State visited India in the month of July and had discussed on various issues including pact on nuclear site;

(b) if so, the main points discussed therein;

(c) to what extent India's relations with US has been further strengthened; and

(d) if so, to what extent both sides signed on end use technology and equipment and offering another two nuclear sites to the US?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR) : (a) and (b) The U.S. Secretary of State, Mrs. Hillary Clinton visited India during 17-21 July 2009. She called on Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition and Chairperson, UPA and held delegation level talks with External Affairs Minister. EAM and Secretary Clinton reviewed bilateral relations and jointly announced a new agenda for Indo-US bilateral cooperation in (i) science technology, health and innovation; (ii) stretagic cooperation; (iii) energy and climate change; (iv) education and development; and (v) economics, trade and agriculture. The revised dialogue architecture establishes new formulized interaction in the field of health, education, women's empowerment, climate change and strategic issues. The two leaders also discussed regional and global issues of common concern including the challenge of terrorism, nuclear proliferation, climate